

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana had a week of hot days and cool nights with little to no precipitation. High temperatures were record-breaking in some locations ranging from the upper 70s to the upper 90s degrees with lows ranging from the mid 20s to the upper 40s degrees. The dry weather was great for producers harvesting late season crops. Corn harvest continues for both grain and silage with 13 percent of corn for grain and 68 percent of corn for silage harvested, which is ahead of the 5-year averages of 3 percent and 56 percent respectively. Sugarbeet harvest is ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 3 percent and 6 percent harvested respectively, with 10 percent harvested so far this year. Potato producers are steadily harvesting with 35 percent harvested, which is ahead of both last year's 28 percent and the 5-year average of 25 percent. Harvest of oats is wrapping up with 95 percent oats harvested this week. Winter wheat seedings continue ahead of last year and ahead of the 5-year average with 69 percent seeded and 12 percent emerged. Pasture and range conditions held steady with the previous week with 20 percent rated good to excellent which remains behind last year's 54 percent and the 5-year average of 41 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 43 percent of cattle and 54 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 33 percent and 41 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	13	4	4	3
Harvested for silage	68	30	73	56
Dry beans				
Harvested	95	93	79	73
Mustard seed				
Harvested	96	92	60	83
Oats				
Harvested	95	88	96	94
Other hay				
Second cutting	93	79	87	90
Potatoes				
Harvested	35	8	28	25
Safflower				
Harvested	35	13	31	43
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	10	8	3	6
Winter wheat				
Planted	69	38	68	53
Emerged	12	1	5	8
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	43	33	30	33
Receiving supplemental feed	21	20	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	54	43	40	41
Receiving supplemental feed	24	20	NA	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.9	5.4	6.0	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	15	2	21
Short.....	35	34	13	24
Adequate.....	43	44	75	49
Surplus.....	7	7	10	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	15	2	18
Short.....	35	36	14	26
Adequate.....	41	40	76	53
Surplus.....	9	9	8	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	3	1	2
Poor.....	7	7	2	5
Fair.....	32	32	32	30
Good.....	44	44	51	46
Excellent.....	14	14	14	17
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	1	1	--	NA
Fair.....	19	19	5	NA
Good.....	55	56	73	NA
Excellent.....	25	24	22	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	11	11	3	12
Poor.....	25	24	12	16
Fair.....	44	45	31	31
Good.....	18	18	40	33
Excellent.....	2	2	14	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	6
Fair.....	28	29	14	26
Good.....	48	47	42	48
Excellent.....	16	16	42	19

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_09272015.pdf